



June 23, 1999

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Lester Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Lester:

Enclosed is a policy statement that the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Board of Directors recently adopted to assure that CALFED and others pursue "Responsible Land Acquisition for Environmental Purposes." As you are aware, there is a groundswell forming in the Sacramento Valley that decries the manner in which land is presently being acquired for environmental purposes. As a practical matter, the concerns cannot and do not distinguish between CALFED and the other numerous programs that will acquire land in the Sacramento Valley.

NCWA has embarked upon what we believe are several constructive solutions to this growing problem, including local involvement, assurances for landowners and water suppliers and addressing the flood protection impacts before the state Reclamation Board. You have seen early drafts of our proposals. We also anticipate that the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be telling with regard to how you and CALFED plan to address land acquisition and the significant effects that flow to landowners, water suppliers and rural communities.

As you will see in our policy statement, we are committed to working with you, CALFED and all other interested parties to avoid the serious land acquisition problems that are now looming on the horizon. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding our Board's policy statement or you would like to discuss it in further detail.

Very truly yours,

Donald R. Bransford  
Chairman of Board

David J. Guy  
Executive Director

David/docs/policy/lester.landacquisition

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